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FOR INFORMATION

UNICEF SUPPORT TO THE JOINT AND CO-SPONSORED UNITED NATIONS PROGRAMME ON HUMAN IMMUNODEFICIENCY VIRUS/ ACQUIRED IMMUNODEFICIENCY SYNDROME

Progress report

SUMMARY

The present report has been prepared to apprise the Executive Board of progress made to date on the joint and co-sponsored United Nations programme on human immunodeficiency virus/acquired immunodeficiency syndrome. In decision 1994/R.2/13 (E/ICEF/1994/13 (Part II)), the Board encouraged UNICEF to participate in the negotiations leading to the establishment of the programme and supported UNICEF participation therein.

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1. In its decision 1994/R.2/13 (E/ICEF/1994/13 (Part II)), the Executive Board encouraged the UNICEF secretariat to continue to participate in the negotiations among the United Nations Development Programme, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, the United Nations Population Fund, the World Bank, the World Health Organization and UNICEF to establish a joint and co-sponsored United Nations programme on human immunodeficiency virus/acquired immunodeficiency syndrome (HIV/AIDS). Between April and September 1994, the Inter-agency Working Group, comprised of representatives of each of the above-mentioned organizations, met on several occasions to discuss specific elements of the joint programme that have to be developed further.

2. In its decision 1994/R.2/13, the Executive Board also expressed strong support for UNICEF participation in the joint programme and encouraged the six organizations to submit a proposal to the Economic and Social Council at its substantive session of 1994. In its resolution 1994/24 of 26 July 1994 on the coordination of United Nations activities related to HIV/AIDS, the Council endorsed the establishment of the joint programme, which was to become operational no later than 1 January 1996, and outlined a number of its fundamental characteristics. The Council specified further that progress made towards implementation of the joint programme was to be reviewed at a special meeting of the Council, to be held no later than April 1995.

3. As called for in the Council resolution, the six co-sponsors transformed the Inter-agency Working Group into the Committee of Co-sponsoring Organizations (CCO), which is charged with interim responsibility for overseeing the transition to full implementation of the joint programme and with the task of establishing a transition team. CCO, which met for the first time on 22 September 1994, decided that the six co-sponsors would assign staff for the transition team as soon as possible, with the WHO Global Programme on AIDS providing office accommodation and administrative support.

4. The transition team, which began work in Geneva on 25 October 1994 under the responsibility of CCO, is composed of at least one representative of each of the co-sponsors, all working on a full- or part-time basis. UNICEF has assigned two full-time staff members to the team. At a meeting on 22 September 1994, CCO agreed that the director of the joint programme would assume responsibility for the transition process as soon as he or she had been designated by the Secretary-General. Following an open and wide-ranging search process, including consultation with Governments and other concerned parties, the six co-sponsors reached consensus on 12 December 1994. They submitted their nominee to the Secretary-General, who announced the same day that Dr. Peter Piot was to be the director of the joint programme.

5. As defined by the Economic and Social Council in its resolution 1994/24, the transition team has started to formulate proposals for CCO on the following:

(a) The joint programme's mission statement and the terms and conditions of co-ownership;

(b) The functions and structure of the joint programme at both the global and country levels, including linkages between these levels, country-level coordination mechanisms and inter-country needs and arrangements;

(c) The strategic plan and outline of the 1996-1997 budget of the joint programme, including staffing requirements;

(d) The principles and procedures for bringing the policies, strategies and activities of the joint programme into the mainstream of each co-sponsor's ongoing programme and activities;

(e) Administrative elements for the joint programme;

(f) The legal document required to establish the joint programme.

6. CCO will submit a report based on those proposals to the Economic and Social Council at its organizational session in early February 1995, as well as to the other parties concerned. A series of consultations and field visits will then be conducted in order to test the viability of the proposed structures and processes, involving discussions with a broad range of partners working in HIV/AIDS, including field staff of the United Nations system, representatives of developing and donor Governments (the latter at the field level), non-governmental organizations, the private sector and groups of people affected by the HIV/AIDS pandemic.

7. It is anticipated that the Programme Coordinating Board, which will act as the governing body of the joint programme and whose composition and responsibilities are currently under discussion by the Economic and Social Council, will meet for the first time in April 1995 to review the detailed proposal for the joint programme, including its proposed budget for 1996-1997.